



## 70 Years of Excellence

Kenneth H. Musson, MD MS  
Peter J. Sneed, MD  
Daniel D. Thuente, MD  
J. Ryan McManus, MD  
Gregory M. Noah, OD  
Matthew P. Madion, MD

Petra C. von Kulajta, MD  
Jeffrey N. Wentzloff, MD  
Jennifer A. Lintz, OD  
Shawn R. Miller, OD  
Julie P. Ritter, OD  
Roseanna M. David, OD

### **What is a “medically necessary contact lens”?**

Grand Traverse Ophthalmology specializes in using unique contact lenses to rehabilitate the vision of patients who have lost best corrected vision due to corneal disease, corneal injury, or failed refractive surgery.

When a patient has lost vision to one of these problems, and they can only see clearly when a contact lens is applied to the eye, then that patient is said to need “medically necessary contact lenses”.

Medically necessary contact lenses are not the same as “cosmetic” contact lenses. Cosmetic contact lenses are elective and are not covered by medical health insurance. Medically necessary contact lenses, however, may be covered by your medical insurance.

### **The process**

Prescribing medically necessary contact lenses can be a difficult, expensive, and frustrating experience. Every patient is different, and it often takes many attempts to find a lens design that works well. Each eye and each patient is a new adventure. Keep in mind that the lenses may need to be reordered and fit several times to get it functional. The manufacturers understand this, so they will remake lenses at no charge for a certain time period, so it is important to keep follow up appointment and stay within the time allowed. It is also important to understand that we can always return the lenses if within the time period the manufacturer allows for full credit if you decide to discontinue treatment for any reason. Only the fitting fee for the service is nonrefundable.

The goal of visual rehabilitation is to achieve three things. First, optimally correct your vision. Second, provide good tolerance to maximize the number of hours that you can wear your lenses. Finally, we need to achieve the first two goals without compromising the health of your eyes.

Sometimes you must wear contacts and glasses to achieve all three goals. Further, there are times when we cannot achieve all three goals. It is important for you to be an active participant in the process. GTOC will do everything possible to ensure that you understand every part of the process.

### **Using your insurance**

Many of the professional services, and occasionally the lenses, may be covered by your medical insurance. Sometimes, however, your medical health insurance will exclude contact lenses under any circumstances.

Some vision benefit plans have programs to cover these lenses. The staff at GTOC will work with you to check on your benefits before we begin. However, insurance companies often tell us one thing and then do another.

Ultimately, each patient is responsible for the charges incurred in prescribing these lenses. We will do everything we can to assist you in understanding the costs and with filing your insurance claims. Please do not hesitate to ask questions about your medical care at any time.

**gtoc.net**

929 Business Park Dr.  
Traverse City, MI 49686  
231.947.6246 800.968.6612

511 Ashmun St.  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783  
906.635.9802 800.824.2711

2061 M-119  
Petoskey, MI 49770  
231.487.2020 866.407.2020